RESTRICTED
R+A 445

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REFERENCE DIVISION
FILE COPY
PLEASE RETURN
REF

097.3
Z1092
No. 445

WHAT THE PEOPLES OF NORTH AFRICA ARE HEARING

(Rapid digest and analysis of radio broadcasts to North Africa from Noon, November 10, to Noon, November 13, 1942.)

CLASSIFICATION
Changed to
UNCLASSIFIED
by authority of
Louis E. Brechtel (DRM)
By R.L. Bryson (AR/PCD)
Date: 12-7-49

Psychology Division

Nov. 14, 1942

WHAT THE PEOPLES OF NORTH AFRICA ARE HEARING

RESTRICTED

Summary

Reports indicate that OWI representatives are broadcasting from the French Empire stations Rabat, Moroc, and Algiers, although little American material has been monitored, and it is not clear to what extent the French still retain control. Darlan's appeals have been broadcast.

Dakar, Tunis, and Vichy broadcasts to the French in Africa have continued emphasis upon the "magnificent" resistance of the French troops against overwhelming forces. Vichy spreads the view that serious resistance is continuing in Algeria and Morocco; the French forces are now withdrawing towards the interior for regrouping. Neither Dakar nor Vichy has yet taken a violently hostile attitude towards the United States, although Vichy has been very careful to point out that France is morally in the right and the "Anglo-Saxons" in the wrong. Tunis has been taking a purely French point of view, neither pro-Axis nor pro-Allied.

Italians in Africa are getting a somewhat more confident picture from the home country, as a result of the occupation of Corsica and Nice and the recent A[illegible]

CLASSIFICATION
Changed to
UNCLASSIFIED
by authority of
Lt Freckelsi, ORS
By Mrs Bryson
Date: 12-7-49

RESTRICTED

air raids in the North African area. North Africa wasn't so bad after all; maybe it will turn out to be really a serious United Nations defeat when Italian propagandists have thought it over a little more.

If the Spaniards in North Africa are receiving the same propaganda as the Spaniards in Spain, then they are now hearing stronger attacks on the Allies from Falangist sources -- although other Spanish sources do not appear to be departing from their reserve on the subject. Spanish claims on North Africa have been vigorously put forth.

The Axis continues its attempts to stir up the Arabs against the British and Americans through direct appeals for revolt, identification of the Allies with the Jewish cause, and false news information. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is now being used for propaganda purposes by both Berlin and Rome.

RESTRICTED

I. WHAT THE FRENCH ARE HEARING

A. From the French Empire Stations in North Africa:

Very little has been heard from stations Noroc, Algiers, and Rabat from noon November 10 to noon November 13. Those items monitored indicate that the stations are under Allied control, but it is not clear whether the French are to be allowed to continue nominal control or divide time with Anglo-American authorities. A press report has been issued (New York Times, November 14) declaring that Rabat and Algiers have been broadcasting "American official programs prepared on the ground by representatives of the Office of War Information". Darlan's statements have been broadcast.

Rabat was heard broadcasting on November 12 and 13 the following message:

> General Nogues has had his first long conversation with the American Military authorities. The bases for an arrangement have been traced. The French troops are going back to their garrisons. The political and economic direction of country continues without any changes. The Resident General continues to bear full responsibility for the maintenance of order in the country. General Nogues, after termination of these conversations, has left for Algiers, where he is to meet the Commander in Chief of the American Forces.

On November 13, Rabat denied rumors that Germany has assured Spain she would respect her neutrality.

The Tunis radio station has continued broadcasting

RESTRICTED

although the duration of its transmission has been reduced "in order to save electricity consumption." Items monitored have exhorted the people to remain cool and disciplined, reported the landing of American troops at Bougie and Bone, and quoted the declaration of Governor General Chatel on his return to Algeria. Axis propaganda influence has not been perceptible. Many of the news items, which are not commented upon, have actually been taken from Anglo-American sources.

B. From the Dakar radio:

Dakar continues to stress the loyalty of the populations and the stubborn resistance being put up by the French forces, reporting many Allied wounded. American and British statements praising the valor of the French forces are quoted. Other items monitored report "complete calm" in Toulon, deny Axis landings in Tunisia, and describe the restrictions on gatherings, loitering, traffic, theatres, bars and restaurants in Tunis. Dakar still does not appear to be issuing strong denunciations of the Anglo-American action on its own authority, but it does quote from a Bucharest newspaper which follows the German line calling the action "pure robbery" and claiming that the invasion will increase the suffering of the French people. The station insists that the only course for Frenchmen is to continue to

RESTRICTED

follow the Marshal and his policy. No mention of the role of Darlan or Giraud has been monitored.

C. From Vichy:

Since noon on November 10 Vichy broadcasts heard in North Africa have continued to stress the "magnificent" attitude of the French troops and have reported "lively" counter-attacks. Although admitting the capitulation of Casablanca "after heroic defense in a disproportionate battle" and issuing the Allied report of the capitulation of the whole of French North Africa, Vichy was still claiming on November 13, that serious fighting continues in the country outside Casablanca. The French forces in Algeria and Morocco are withdrawing toward the interior for regrouping, Vichy has also claimed. Successful Axis air attacks are reported. On the afternoon of November 10, Vichy told of the return of Governor General Chatel to his post "under perilous conditions," and described him as "the soul of civilian resistance."

Vichy describes the situation in Tunisia as one of "absolute calm": "The defenders are ready....the population is going about its affairs normally." Prefectorial edicts restricting gatherings, public performances,

RESTRICTED

restaurant operations and the like have been issued. An Allied air attack on the airdromes at Tunis is acknowledged. However, Vichy denies that Axis troops have landed in Tunisia. A telegram from the provincial inspector of Constantine is reported, declaring, "We remain faithful to our traditions, believe the Marshal, for our France."

The Vichy radio is still not displaying great indignation, and seriously attempting to arouse hatred of Americans, although the few propaganda items broadcast have been definitely anti-Ally. One of its prime purposes seems to be to show that the Vichy government has acted honorably and is not responsible for what has happened. "At the time of the affair of the Antilles, President Laval made known to the American government that nothing would ever come from the French side which might create an irreparable situation. The Anglo-Saxons have the full and entire responsibility for the tragic events which we are witnessing." Vichy comments further that the motives the "Anglo-Saxons" invoked are lying motives, that they struck at the point of least resistance, and "If we wish to live and resume the place which is ours in the world, we must do everything possible to save our empire."

RESTRICTED

D. From Berlin and Rome:

There has not been sufficient monitored material from the German and Italian broadcasts in French heard in North Africa to indicate the themes that are being featured. However, the general Berlin and Rome line in foreign propaganda can be found in the FCC Weekly Review, November 14. Of special note is Berlin's denunciation of Darlan, and the Axis urging for the continuation of French resistance in North Africa in spite of Darlan's treachery.

E. From London:

From London the French in North Africa can hear full news on battle developments and diplomatic developments.

F. From Fighting French Stations:

Fighting French Stations in Brazzaville and Beirut give news and repeat their appeals to Frenchmen in North Africa to throw off the Axis yoke. Beirut, for example, "Frenchmen, Mohammedans, soldiers, and officers of North Africa -- throw yourselves immediately and unreservedly into this battle of liberation...

RESTRICTED

It is up to you...History will praise and honor you."

The Brazzaville radio has not acknowledged Giraud as the leader of the French anti-Fascist, and has in fact mentioned him only infrequently. De Gaulle, on the other hand, is mentioned even more frequently than usual. On November 10, Brazzaville announced that, "Fighting France is ready to welcome with glory all Frenchmen who want to fight under the tri-color flag and under French leadership."

RESTRICTED

II. WHAT THE ITALIANS ARE HEARING

A. From Rome:

While Italian propaganda to the Mediterranean Basin continues to admit that Italy is confronted with "one of the great trials of history which our people must face in order to achieve justice," nevertheless, with the occupation of Corsica and Nice, its tone has become more confident. Italy still controls the Mediterranean and its important supply lines. Axis air attacks on Allied ships and airdromes in the North African area have been highly successful. Occupation of Corsica and the coast of France has strengthened the Axis position. In fact, it is a serious set-back for the Allies who planned to establish bridge-heads there. In general, then, Italians are hearing that things are not as bad as they seemed at first. The Allies were successful in North Africa only because of Axis respect for the armistice with France. Special emphasis is placed upon the calmness with which the French population received Italian troops. Criticism of France has diminished. The report is spread that the English and Americans, dissatisfied with de Gaulle, are planning to remove him.

RESTRICTED

II. WHAT THE ITALIANS ARE HEARING

A. From Rome:

While Italian propaganda to the Mediterranean Basin continues to admit that Italy is confronted with "one of the great trials of history which our people must face in order to achieve justice," nevertheless, with the occupation of Corsica and Nice, its tone has become more confident. Italy still controls the Mediterranean and its important supply lines. Axis air attacks on Allied ships and airdromes in the North African area have been highly successful. Occupation of Corsica and the coast of France has strengthened the Axis position. In fact, it is a serious set-back for the Allies who planned to establish bridge-heads there. In general, then, Italians are hearing that things are not as bad as they seemed at first. The Allies were successful in North Africa only because of Axis respect for the armistice with France. Special emphasis is placed upon the calmness with which the French population received Italian troops. Criticism of France has diminished. The report is spread that the English and Americans, dissatisfied with de Gaulle, are planning to remove him.

Psychology Division
November 14, 1942
RESTRICTED

III. WHAT THE SPANISH ARE HEARING

A. From Spain:

Spanish domestic propaganda from Falangist stations has veered to a more anti-United Nations and pro-Axis position in its treatment of the African situation, but has not as yet indulged in consistently all-out condemnation of Anglo-American actions. Nor is it clear whether Franco's policy is identical with that of Falangist propaganda.

(The following analysis is made on the basis of Spanish broadcasts to Spain, in the absence of any monitoring of Spanish broadcasts to North Africa. There is little reason to believe, however, that there would be important differences in general line in the broadcasts beamed to North Africa.)

The most severe criticism of the United Nations appeared in a broadcast November 10, from the strongly pro-Axis Radio Falange at Valladolid:

> "The forces of good, the people who are fighting, the spirit of aggression, the men who are defending the independence of Nations and their right to direct their own destinies in their own fashion, the State which promised never to mix in the affairs of other continents, the man who swore not to send his armies outside of American territory, have landed troops in Africa and have attacked French sovereignty in the Province of Algeria.

RESTRICTED

"Thus does the United States return the good services France rendered to her during the last war. Never in the whole course of the war has there been such an extraordinary example of cold calculation.

"In the future, it will be a cruel mockery to talk of the principles of the Atlantic Charter, which was definitely destroyed when the first guns were fired (in North Africa.)"

The commentary goes on to deny the Axis threat to North Africa, ridicule the U.S. explanations, protest that the Allied move was no surprise to Hitler, and promise that "at the right time Roosevelt will learn the answer of Europe's defenders."

Another anti-American broadcast declared that "in view of the American plans, in full agreement with the Soviets, for future organization of the world, and in the face of the apparition of Roosevelt's forces in the Latin Sea cradle of civilization, a profound shiver must have been felt by the whole of Europe."

Other Spanish broadcasts, however, are more reserved. A Barcelona commentator declares, "We are not going to give much space in our chronicle to comment on the landing of Anglo-American Troops on the North African Coast, because, if our commentary were of political character, we should have to start from the Doctrine of Monroe, and if it were of military character we would have to come to the very difficult

RESTRICTED

realization that the experience has shown to us that it (the landings) can be affected without great sacrifice in lives and war material."

Spanish concern for Spanish rights in North Africa has become more aggressive and ambitious. At first, Spain merely repeated without comment the British and American assurances of respect for Spanish territorial integrity. On November 11, however, a Spanish commentary declared that the assurances "are not to be considered as gracious confessions of what the countries concerned intended to do. They are rather to be regarded in the light of an unconditional surrender before the existence of a moral right....Spain's attitude (toward the North African issue) has always been clearly revisionist....the situation created by military operations in French Morocco can only be considered by us as a series of events which have no juridical importance, and no influence whatever on the future status of the Moroccan Empire. We continue to maintain our claims..."

(Vichy has reported that the Spanish High Commission of Spanish Morocco issued a proclamation to the population

RESTRICTED

of the protectorate in which he observed, "with satisfaction," that world attention has been focussed on northwest Africa; that the status quo in the Spanish zone has not been changed but consolidated; and that rumor spreading and other activities capable of making the people nervous would not be tolerated).

B. From Berlin and Rome:

The F.C.C. Weekly Review of November 14 contains a report of German and Italian broadcasts to Latin America in Spanish, which can also be heard in North Africa.

RESTRICTED

IV. WHAT THE ARABS ARE HEARING

A. From Berlin:

German attempts to incite the Arabs to revolt against the Allied forces have continued with broadcast of the following appeal from Haj Amin Al-Husseini, "the Grand Mufti of Palestine":

> "The Anglo-American occupation of the Arabian lands, after 25 years of Balfour's Declaration, was prompted by the Jewish interest in the colonization of the Arabian lands and the founding of a Jewish State there.
>
> "Arabs, rest assured, that the American Army is the sword in the hands of the Jews, who are coming to enslave you."
>
> "Arabs, trust not in Anglo-American promises. The Anglo-Americans are the protectors of the Jews."

Berlin has also reported in Arabic that Petain has sent reinforcements to French Africa and that new British and Greek armies have reached Cyprus.

B. From Rome:

Rome, like Berlin, has exploited the appeals of the Grand Mufti.

Other Rome broadcasts have declared that "American occupation of Africa is a Jewish victory over Arabs... Americans, like the British, are protectors of Jews, colonizers of Arabian lands, and exploiters of Arabian oil. Solidarity with the Axis means freedom. Union with Anglo-Americans means slavery." Rome also declares that fighting in French North Africa has not been officially ended, since Vichy has refused to confirm Darlan's appeal.

RESTRICTED

C. From Paris (in Moroccan):

On November 10 Paris was heard broadcasting the following items: Portugal and Spain have proclaimed complete neutrality and determination to fight aggressors; French forces are victorious in Morocco; the situation in Algiers is grave; French Africa forms part of [illegible]; Rommel's retreat was a strategy for a better advance and thrust at the British forces.

CLASSIFICATION
Changed to
UNCLASSIFIED
by authority of
By
Date: 12-7-49

D. From Vichy:

The only monitored items from Vichy in Arabic have been relatively neutral news items, without any of the inciting qualities of the appeals from Berlin, Rome and Paris.

E. From the "Voice of Free Arabs" (Axis clandestine station).

This station on the morning of November 11 announced in Egyptian that the German army entered Tunis and was received by the Tunisians with enthusiasm. It should be noted that on the afternoon of the same day Vichy officially denied that Axis forces had landed in Tunis. It is apparent that Axis propaganda is not only attempting to incite the Arabs of Africa to revolt, but also is blandly lying about the Axis military position in Africa, on the assumption that the Arabs' action will be strongly influenced by their opinion as to which side is going to win. As a matter of fact, Axis propaganda to the Arabs has traditionally been much more emotional, distorted and inaccurate than other Axis propaganda.